

Ans A3)

ABSTRACT

A method and system via which a client application hosting a browser notifies a server its existence, whereby the server provides enhanced operating functionality to the client. The enhanced functionality may include enabling continuous, silent and automatic state synchronization with a secure website that is designed for use both with and without the client application. Before a client application requests a server's normally-accessible website, the client application instead provides a URL to a hosted browser to access a special, otherwise hidden web page. The hidden web page writes awareness information (e.g., a "cookie") to a client storage identifying the client as an enhanced client. The hidden page then automatically forwards the client to the requested website, whereby the server distinguishes the enhanced clients from ordinary clients, and modifies its behavior accordingly. For example, because the server has knowledge that the client application is present, the server and client application may communicate in the background, such as to synchronize the client application's data with server state information. To synchronize, the server data may be written into a client storage mechanism, or the server data may be passed through the client browser as a tagged image file or a file resembling a media file.